

THE ZEPHYR

South Bethany's Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2021

Due to the ongoing public health threat of COVID-19, at this time, Town buildings are closed to the public until restrictions are lifted. Please visit our walk-up window at Town Hall. Staff is also available via telephone or email during normal business hours. There is no disruption in Police Department service.

From the Mayor's Desk

Winter has passed and spring has finally arrived in South Bethany. The Town continues to navigate the changing COVID 19 pandemic and state guidelines. Throughout the year, the Town has continued to operate at full capacity by making appropriate adjustments and through the use of virtual technology for public meetings. It is very important to recognize all of the efforts made by our Town Manager and Chief of Police to maintain Town operations as close to normal as possible.

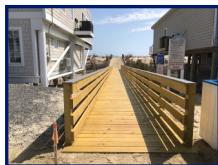
As we move forward towards this summer, many decisions will need to be made regarding Town sponsored activities. These decisions will be managed by state guidelines and the status of COVID 19 infection and vaccination rates. We will delay decisions as long as possible. However, due to the need to plan, decisions may be made earlier than we would like. Be assured that the decisions will be made on the best available information at the time. All of us want to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

Since last summer, we had additional beach replenishment creating a wider beach for the upcoming summer. Thankfully, we had a mild & uneventful winter without a significant nor'easter leaving our beach in excellent shape for the upcoming summer. We look forward to a fantastic and enjoyable summer season for all this year. And we also welcome back Jay Vending as the beach concessionaire for 2021.

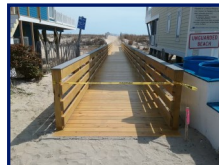
The Town continues to improve beach access by creating wooden walkways from the Street to the toe of the dune. This year the Town Council approved six more access walkways for improvement. As of this writing, three have been completed. Pictured below, are the new ones at S. 2nd, N. 4th and Jamaica Streets. We anticipate the other three accesses to be completed by mid to late June at S. 5th, S. 9th and Division Streets. This will bring the total completed to 9 crossovers.



South 2nd Street



North 4th Street



Jamaica Street

For FY 2022, the Town Council further approved funds to complete the remaining crossovers. By making this decision, the Council has accelerated completion of the project by two years!

Many positive items occurred over the winter. Financially, the Town remained in solid position with no negative impact from the COVID pandemic. The Town Council approved the FY 2022 **balanced** operational budget with no tax increase and a capital improvement plan was approved with priorities set for the next 10 years. The FY 2022 capital budget includes funds for infrastructure projects such as remaining beach crossovers, road repairs as necessary throughout Town, and improvements to Town Hall.

The Capital Improvement Plan was a recommendation contained in our 2016 Comprehensive Plan. The Capital Plan provides direction for infrastructure projects, funding for town vehicles and canal water quality projects, etc. This plan is a 'living document' and continues to show funding needs for new projects or priorities, as desired by the property owners. I highly encourage everyone to review this Capital Plan to understand possible future spending.

The Town staff is currently preparing for the summer season which will be upon us soon. The work may be seen throughout Town with new and existing beds being spruced up with new plantings. Routine repairs to three bulkhead ends will be made in the near future as well. Bicycle racks have been strategically placed throughout Town to assure adequate bike parking without infringing on private property. Lastly, DelDOT is working on the Route 1 lighting project with an anticipated completion date by Memorial Day weekend.

We look forward to a great summer season here in the Quiet Resorts and the Town of South Bethany.

Mayor Saxton

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Town of South Bethany • 402 Evergreen Road • South Bethany, DE 19930

Visit the Town Website: <https://southbethany.delaware.gov/>

Find us on Instagram @ Southbethanytownhall

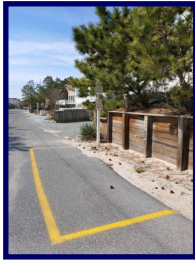


South Bethany Police Department

The South Bethany Police Department welcomed Jahn Farrell in October 2020. Officer Farrell is retired from Woodbury, New York. We will also be welcoming back Dee Ramsey as our parking enforcement officer. Dee will start back with the Town in May. Welcome to both!

As a reminder, vehicle parking on the ocean side is limited to handicapped and "residents only" parking permit holders. Handicapped and/or parking permits **MUST** be displayed appropriately so that they are visible to parking enforcement.

New for 2021-Lifeguard parking will be delineated by a yellow parking space as well as a sign. These spaces are designated for lifeguards *only*. Lifeguards must also properly display



their parking tags for these specialized spots.

As always, handicapped parking is delineated by a blue parking space, along with handicapped parking signage. If you do not have a handicapped tag on your vehicle, **DO NOT** park in these designated spaces.

At their meeting of February 12, 2021, the South Bethany Town Council voted to change the dates of the barricade placement in Cat Hill to start the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and end the Tuesday after Labor Day. That means that the new dates that the barricade will be out and under enforcement for 2021 are **Friday, May 28 to Tuesday, September 7**. New enforcement procedures will be in effect this year and road closure guidelines of 10:00 am to 1:00 pm will be strictly adhered.

At their meeting of March 12, the Town Council voted to adopt Ordinance 202-21, adding a section to Chapter 94 to include bike parking within the Town.

- Bicycles must be parked in Town-provided bike racks only. Any bike parked in public rights-of-way outside of bike racks, are subject to removal by the SB Police. Bikes will be held at the SB Police Department until retrieved by the owner.
- Bicycles cannot be secured to street signs, light posts, utility poles, or fencing by use of a bike chain or lock device, or they are subject to removal.
- Bicycles found on private property, without the property owners' consent, 'may be' removed by Police if the property owner completes and submits a removal request document, which can be obtained at the Police Department.
- This Ordinance can be viewed in full at <https://southbethany.delaware.gov>.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 9 - 15, 2021

Thank you to all Law Enforcement!

Article submitted by Chief Jason Lovins

Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety

2021 is going to be a different year than last. As we venture moving forward, here are some reminders so the Quiet Resorts can continue to be a location for summer enjoyment and relaxation.



In 2020, pedestrian crosswalks were installed on Coastal Highway (Rt. 1) by DelDOT at Bayshore, Henlopen, Petherton and Anchorage Drives. We received very positive comments and many feel that the signs are an advantage to pedestrians who are crossing Route 1 to and from the beach. The signs are equipped with push-button activated yellow flashing lights to aid in warning approaching motorists at the crosswalks. South Bethany Police Officers will be very active monitoring the crosswalks located on Coastal Highway in efforts to help ensure the safety of all who visit South Bethany.

Although motorists should always remain aware of both bicycle and pedestrian traffic, the same must be emphasized to both pedestrians and bicyclists regarding motorists as well.

Pedestrians SHOULD:

- **NEVER TEXT** while walking.
- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Electronic devices can be distracting! Stay alert at all times and **never** take your eyes and ears off the road.
- Cross at crosswalks or intersections! This is where pedestrians are expected. Utilize DelDOT's crosswalk locations!
- Always, always look for cars in all directions - including those turning left or right.
- Never assume a driver sees you; make eye contact with drivers as they approach you to make sure you are seen.
- Be visible at all times; wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
- Teach children not to run out into the street after balls and do not

allow them to cross the street alone until you have taught them the basics and practiced crossing the street with them. When driving in neighborhoods, be on the lookout for kids who might not be paying attention. Use caution near food trucks stopped in neighborhoods!

- **The Facts!** A large number of pedestrians are killed in Delaware motor vehicle crashes each year, and hundreds more are injured. Walking under the influence of drugs or alcohol puts pedestrians at much higher risk of being struck by a vehicle.

Motorists SHOULD:

- Yield to pedestrians. It's the law at both marked and unmarked crosswalks.
- Be on the lookout! Safety is a shared responsibility.
- Follow the speed limit, especially in school zones and where people are present....such as the coastal areas and beach towns.
- Slow down and reduce your speed in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime and in bad weather.
- Stop before crosswalks. This allows other vehicles to see pedestrians too.
- Be alert and watch out for pedestrians who are distracted by electronic devices or talking, are confused, or are incapacitated.
- **NEVER PASS VEHICLES STOPPED AT CROSSWALKS. PERIOD.**
- Be extra cautious backing up. People are at the beach and not paying attention. Pedestrians can easily move into your path!
- **BE SOBER!** Don't drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

We wish all residents and visitors have a safe, healthy and enjoyable 2021 summer.



ARRIVE ALIVE DE

Water, Water, Everywhere!

Typically after rain events, we can count on a few questions regarding stormwater. The low-lying nature of many coastal areas presents unique stormwater management challenges that are, or can be, exacerbated by coastal flooding.

Coastal flooding at outfalls may drive backflow into the system, causing upland flooding through street drains and drainage ditches. With the coast's fairly flat topography, more frequent, higher, and longer-lasting high water events may drive up already high groundwater levels in some coastal communities. This change may also reduce the soil's ability to absorb stormwater, thus increasing runoff.

More and more, homeowners are finding that sometimes a minor change in landscaping or property grading, can make all the difference in the world! Here are some examples.

BIORETENTION

Bioretention facilities capture and store stormwater runoff and pass it through a bed of engineered media known as biosoil. They are typically planted with native plants that have deep roots, which loosen the soil and allow more stormwater to soak into the ground. They help reduce flooding, erosion and pollution and enhance groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat and aesthetics. Bioretention facilities can include rain gardens, tree box filters, and raised planter boxes.

BIOSWALE

A bioswale is an elongated, linear bioretention facility often found on roadsides within the right-of-way. They can be outfitted with small dams to retain water on steeper slopes. The Center for Inland Bays (CIB) worked with the Town of South Bethany to install bioswales in the median along Coastal Highway.



INFILTRATION

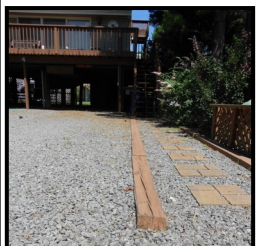
Infiltration practices capture and temporarily store the design storm volume before allowing it to infiltrate into the soil over a 2 day period. Typically, infiltration trenches are used along streets and highways to reduce stormwater runoff.

PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable pavements allow stormwater runoff and snow melt to drain through the pavements surface to the subbase and base layers below. In addition to reducing runoff volume, the base layers can also help to filter pollutants. Permeable pavements can use either infiltration or an underdrain system depending on the surrounding soils. A stone-filled reservoir under the permeable pavements provides structural support. Different types of permeable pave include pervious concrete, permeable interlocking concrete pavers, grid pavement systems, & porous asphalt.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE REMOVAL

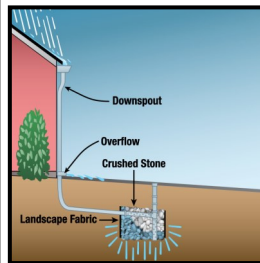
In some areas of Coastal Delaware, impervious surfaces have previously been constructed to accommodate oversized parking requirements or in anticipation of planned development that did not occur. Likewise, some streets have wider paved surfaces than necessary to accommodate transportation and parking. Several of these impervious surfaces are no longer needed and can be removed and replaced with pervious surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff. An example used in South Bethany is more



property owners are choosing to utilize pavers or gravel, which allow infiltration instead of traditional concrete for driveways and walkways.

DRY WELL

Dry wells are small pits that collect water from the gutters of a house. The pits may be filled with stone or contain a prefabricated detention chamber. Usually, multiple devices are required to treat all the stormwater from a single rooftop. They can be located at the ground surface or below ground. Additional water quality benefits can be obtained from dry wells that include treatment features like separators and specialized filters.



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rain barrels and cisterns can be used to store rainwater to be reused for gardening and other non-potable water activities.

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

Conservation landscaping can be done to reduce stormwater runoff in locations where detaining stormwater is not practical. Gardening with native plants increases habitat, reduces runoff rates, and promotes healthy soils. When using this technique, property owners should maximize their use of native species and ensure that no invasive species are planted. The types of plants that should be utilized in a particular area will depend on the existing features of that space like the type of soils that are present and how much sun and water the area typically receives. *Delaware's Livable Plants for the Home Landscape Guide* provides a list of native plants that are appropriate based on the land type of the property owner.



SOUTH BETHANY TOWN CODE

In South Bethany, there is a pervious minimum requirement of 55% and impervious maximum of 45%. In the zoning ordinance, in the R-1, Single-Family Dwelling District, at least 55% of the sum of required building setback area, as defined in Chapter 145, Zoning, Article XI, Setback Requirements, shall be covered with pervious materials. The building setback area is the total of the front, rear, and side setbacks expressed in square footage. Pervious covering materials such as, but not limited to, sand, gravel, mulch, grass, shells, and natural vegetation, are permitted. When installed per industry standards or guidelines, permeable pavers, pervious concrete, and porous asphalt are also considered.

And don't forget, impervious surfaces planned in the setback area require a building permit. The application for a permit must include a plot or sketch showing the location and dimensions of all existing and planned impervious surfaces, including a description of the materials to be used.

Rapid growth, compounded with impacts to the groundwater table and growing floodplain, are the reasons that coastal Delaware communities are seeking out strategies for reducing impervious surface cover. For more information, call Code Enforcement Officer, Joe Hinks, at 302-539-3653, extension 211.

Article submitted by Maureen Hartman & Joseph Hinks

TOWN HALL INFORMATION PAGE



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TOWN HALL HOURS

(Meeting dates are subject to change; meeting times will be determined at the Organizational Meeting on June 4, 2021)

DATE	TIME	MEETING/HOLIDAY
May 14	10:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
May 31		Town Hall Closed for Memorial Day
June 4	10:00 AM	Town Council Organizational Meeting
June 11	TBD	Town Council Regular Meeting
June 24	TBD	Town Council Workshop
July 5		Town Hall Closed for Independence Day
July 9	TBD	Town Council Regular Meeting
July 22	TBD	Town Council Workshop
August 13	TBD	Town Council Regular Meeting
August 26	TBD	Town Council Workshop
September 6		Town Hall Closed for Labor Day
September 10	TBD	Town Council Regular Meeting
September 23	TBD	Town Council Workshop
October 8	TBD	Town Council Regular Meeting
October 28	TBD	Town Council Workshop

South Bethany Election Day

When: Saturday, May 29, 2021

Where: Town Hall

Polls Open: 9:00 AM

Polls Close: 3:00 PM

We will follow COVID 19 Safety Guidelines MASKS

ARE REQUIRED IN TOWN HALL

See additional information on page 7!



OTHER CONTACTS

State Police Non-Emergency	302-855-2980
DNREC	800-523-3336 (Boating complaints outside of Town limits)
U.S. Coast Guard	800-424-8802
Republic Services	800-762-8888 (TRASH, RECYCLING, YARD WASTE)
DE Solid Waste Authority	800-404-7080 (Landfill)
Artesian	302-453-6930 (Water)
Sharp Energy	302-856-6648 (Emergency)

TOWN HALL 302-539-3653

CONTACT	NAME	EXTENSION
Town Manager	Maureen Hartman	213
Finance Director	Renee McDorman	215
Code Enforcement Officer	Joe Hinks	211
Administrative Specialist	Janet Powell	219
Town Clerk	Matt Amerling	218
Public Works Supervisor	Jon Stiffler	216
Public Works	Rick Gentile	216
Beach Patrol Captain	Ryan Dacey	226

POLICE DEPARTMENT 302-539-3996 (non-emergency)

Chief of Police	Jason Lovins	224
Police Sergeant	Patrick Wiley	214
Police Officer	Killian Klopp	212
Police Officer	Jahn Farrell	212
Police Officer	Shaun Baldasano	223
Police Officer	Terik Fullerton	225
Police Officer	Anthony Quiroz	223
PD Admin Assistant	Coleen Meyer	221

TOWN COUNCIL 302-539-3653

Mayor	Tim Saxton	555
Councilmember (Mayor Pro-Tem)	Sue Callaway	552
Councilmember (Secretary)	Carol Stevenson	551
Councilmember (Treasurer)	Randy Bartholomew	553
Councilmember	Frank Weisgerber	556
Councilmember	Dick Oliver	550
Councilmember	Derek Abbott	554

Fax (Town Hall)	(302) 539-7576
Fax (Police)	(302) 539-7545

2021 BULK TRASH PICK-UP DAYS

MAY 15 and SEPTEMBER 11

The Town's TWO Bulk Trash Pick-Up Days are scheduled for Saturday, May 15 and Saturday September 11, 2021. To ensure collection, place bulk items at the curb the night before.

Please remember that the following items will **not** be collected: yard waste, automobile batteries, tires, paint, rocks, construction debris, bricks, stumps, dirt, concrete blocks, flammable/hazardous materials, oil/petroleum products, appliances containing CFC Freon gas (a/c units, freezers, refrigerators). Also the following applies:

- Freon must be removed from appliances.
- Remove freezer and refrigerator doors.
- Remove oil and gas from lawnmowers and a sign indicating that this has been done must be taped on the lawnmower.
- Inadvertent collection of material placed in, on, or adjacent to bulk items to be collected WILL NOT be the responsibility of Republic Services.
- Materials should be placed at the curb the night before to ensure collection. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE them out longer.

If you have questions, call Republic Services: (800) 762-8888 or contact Town Hall.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)

COMING SOON TO SOUTH BETHANY



Biking is becoming increasingly popular in South Bethany and all around our coastal community. Biking is fun, great exercise and definitely easier than finding a place to park your car! With that in mind, the CEC is sponsoring a bike repair station that will be installed near the Anchorage forebay adjacent to the largest bike rack area and convenient to Route 1. The DERO fix-it station includes all the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs, and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes.

Stay tuned for its arrival date!

FLAGS FOR HEROES

South Bethany honors its heroes and their support of our country. Sponsored by the CEC, look for our new *Flags for Heroes* display along Route 1 on *holiday weekends*.



The Town of South Bethany is a community that stands together for America.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN SOUTH BETHANY?



The CEC has several canal/road ends available for adoption.



Look for the new permanent adopt signs at each adopted canal end throughout town to see what a difference volunteerism can make in our town.

If you are interested in adopting a canal/road end,

Volunteers do make a difference!

Articles submitted by Councilwoman Sue Callaway, CEC Chair

CHANGES TO TOWN HALL STAFF

Good Luck! In December 2020, South Bethany bid farewell to Administrative Assistant Pam Smith, who retired from the Town after 15 years of loyal service to the community. Enjoy your retirement, Pam!

Congratulations! In March, Janet Powell was promoted from the position of Town Clerk to Administrative Specialist. Although you may not see Janet at the walk-up window as frequently, she will still be assisting the new Town Clerk, as well as the Mayor, Council, and Town Manager.

Welcome! If you haven't stopped by Town Hall lately, then you haven't met our new Town Clerk, Matt Amerling! Matt joined Town Hall in March and has many years of experience in municipal government. Matt is a native Delawarean and lives in Dagsboro with his wife and two daughters. Welcome to South Bethany, Matt!

ORDINANCE & RESOLUTION UPDATE

Ordinance 200-20 - to amend the Code of South Bethany by adding a new chapter, Chapter 58, entitled "Concessions and Concessionaires". This ordinance was adopted on November 13, 2020.

Ordinance 201-21 - to amend the Code of South Bethany, Chapter 30, Animals, to add requirements applicable to owners of outdoor cats. This ordinance was adopted on March 12, 2021.

Ordinance 202-21 - to amend the Code of South Bethany, Chapter 94, Parking, to add provisions regarding bicycle parking. This ordinance was adopted on March 12, 2021.

Resolution 3-20 - Extend the Term of the Cable Franchise Granted to Mediacom Delaware, LLC. Date approved, July 10, 2020.

Resolution 4-20 - Extend the Term of the Cable Franchise Granted to Mediacom Delaware, LLC. Date approved, September 11, 2020.

Resolution 5-20 - Authorizing Executions of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Town and Comcast of Delmarva, LLC. Date approved, November 13, 2020.

Resolution 6-20 - Extending the Term of the Cable Franchise Grant-

ed to Mediacom Delaware, LLC. Date approved, November 13, 2020.

Resolution 7-20 - Amending the Charter of the South Bethany, Being Chapter C, §C-5, §C-6, §C-7 of the Laws of Delaware, by Revising §C-5, Town Council, §C-6, Municipal Elections, §C-7, Organization of Town Council. Date approved, December 11, 2020.

Resolution 8-20 - Recognize Rebecca and Richard Mais, McCabe's Gourmet Market. Date approved, December 11, 2020.

Resolution 1-21 - Revise the Town of South Bethany Schedule of Fees. Date approved, April 9, 2021.

Resolution 2-21 - Set the FY 2022 Property Tax Rate and Rental Tax Rate. Date approved, April 9, 2021.

Resolution 3-21 - Adopting an Operating and Capital Budget and Reserve Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2022. Approved April 9, 2021.

These ordinances and resolutions can be viewed in full at Town Hall or in the News & Notices section of the Town's website

ACCESS THE TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY CODE

On the home page of the Town's website
<https://southbethany.delaware.gov/>



Beach Time

BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

Request a beach wheelchair at the nearest life-guard stand or contact Captain Ryan Dacey for assistance. The chairs are available during life-guard hours only and can be used for transport on and off the beach. This helps the guards accommodate as many people as possible.



Junior Lifeguard Program - Due to the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic, at the time of the writing of this Newsletter, we are not yet certain if the Junior Lifeguard Program will be provided this year. We will continue to monitor the issues and keep everyone apprised through our website or email news update.

IMPORTANT BEACH RULES

Smoking is prohibited in the following areas: the beach and the Beach access walkways from the Eastern edge of Ocean Drive to the beach, and from the eastern edge of Sea Side Drive to the beach, and all handicapped walkways.

- No pets or other animals are permitted from May 15 to Oct. 15.
- Glass containers are prohibited.
- Fireworks and fires are prohibited on the beach. Only Town sponsored bonfires are permitted.
- Please fill all holes dug in the sand before leaving the beach.
- Help us to maintain our sand dunes. Use only the walkways to get to the beach.

The handicap accessible walkway is located at South 3rd Street

Lifeguards may stop any activity deemed to be a nuisance.

See the complete list of Beach Rules on the Beach Patrol page of the Town's website and at the beach walkways.



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1971 - 2021 SOUTH BETHANY BEACH PATROL!

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR PARKING PASSES YET?



ONLINE For your convenience, you can purchase your parking permits online and permits will be mailed to you! Go to our website at <https://southbethany.delaware.gov> and click "Online Payments".



MAIL a check payable to Town of South Bethany, 402 Evergreen Rd., South Bethany, DE 19930. Provide your mailing address and the quantity. Permits will be mailed directly to you.



CALL (302) 539-3653 ext. 518
Provide your credit card information and mailing address. Permits will be mailed directly to you.

Property Owners: Application for Rental License or Non-Rental Declaration must be completed prior to purchasing

Resident Parking Permits	\$20 EACH
Replacement Permits	\$100 EACH*
*Replacement permits are not available for online purchase	

**Maximum four (4) permits allowed
Hang Tags and Static Tags are available**

Daily/Visitor passes can be conveniently purchased 24/7 at the kiosk located outside Town Hall from May 15 to September 15 at the cost of \$20.00 each for a 24-hour pass. **New for 2021! The kiosk accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover only, no cash!**

DID YOU KNOW?

You Can Pay Your Tax Bill Online

View and pay your tax bill online on the Online Payments page of the Town's website. If you need assistance, contact the Finance Director, Renee McDorman at 302-539-3653, extension 215, or email Renee at financial@southbethany.org.

The 2021 Trash Calendar is Online

The calendar is posted on our website (on the Home page click or tap the Trash Schedule icon). Or you can stop by Town Hall and pick up a copy!

FY 2022 Budget Approved

The South Bethany Town Council, at its regular meeting on April 9, 2021, approved the FY 2022 Budget. Detailed copies of the budget are available at Town Hall during regular business hours, or it can be

viewed on the Budget and Finance page of the Town's website.

Help Keep our Beach & Town Clean

Please pick up after your pets and use the convenient waste bags located throughout Town. Please be respectful of all properties!

Rental License/Rental Tax

No property owner shall advertise to lease or rent without obtaining a valid annual rental license. **Effective May 1, 2021**, the fee is \$180.00 for each residential or commercial property offered for rent and is payable at the time the application is submitted. The property owner certifies that all prior rental tax forms have been filed; all rental tax and penalties due have been paid in full; and all information provided, and statements made are true and accurate. A property owner found guilty of violating this ordinance shall upon conviction be fined \$300.00 for each day of violation, plus court costs, and reasonable town attorney fees.

IN OTHER NEWS...

LOCAL 10-DIGIT CALLING BEGINS APRIL 24, 2021

People with phone numbers in the 302 area code should be ready to punch in a few more numbers when they call another 302 number, or when one of their devices needs to interact.

The official start for 10-digit dialing begins on Saturday, April 24, but by October 24, all local calls must be dialed using the full 10-digit telephone number beginning with 302.

The change, affecting residents of 15 other states and territories, is needed to start 988 as a new national suicide hotline number. The National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline remains at 800-273-TALK until it moves to 988 on July 16, 2022. Seven-digit calls between 302 numbers will work for only the next six months.

Delaware is one of 37 states that has a location with a "988" prefix number. The (302) 988 exchange, based in Selbyville, is used by AT&T landline and mobile customers. For 988 to work in the 302 area code, 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented.

"In Delaware, beginning April 24, telephone users with area code 302 will start to make local calls using the full 10-digit telephone number, six months ahead of the mandatory deadline," stated Senator Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown.

Last July, the FCC adopted an order which approved 988 as the 3-digit abbreviated dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach the lifeline until that date.

The two-year transition period will now allow widespread network changes and give lifeline personnel time to prepare for an expected increase in calls, according to the FCC.

The change affects 84 area codes, including 856 in South Jersey, but no area codes in the Maryland or Pennsylvania areas.

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

Are you new to Town? Stop by Town Hall to pick up a "Welcome Bag"! The bag has an array of fun things as well as information about the Town and surrounding areas.

Questions? Call Administrative Specialist, Janet Powell at (302) 539-3653, extension 219.

MEDIACOM NEWS

Mediacom has announced that Xstream Community WiFi hotspots in the Town of South Bethany, are now active and free of charge to residents in the area.

Mediacom's Xstream Hotspots provide free unlimited internet use for Mediacom Internet subscribers as well as 30 minutes a month to everyone who does not subscribe to their internet service. To utilize these hotspots, all you need to do is connect to a broadcasting hotspot and sign in using your Mediacom login for Mediacom internet subscribers or register as a guest on the network to start your free 30 minutes of usage. There is more information on the sign-in process that can be found at the following link <https://mediacomcable.com/xstream-hotspots/>

In the Town of South Bethany, these Xstream Community WiFi hotspots can be found along the beach between N. Division St. and S. 6th. St, down S. Ocean Dr. as well as near the South Bethany Town Hall.

Any questions? Contact Chris Lord at clord@mediacomcc.com.

COMCAST COMING TO TOWN

In 2020, the Town of South Bethany entered into an agreement with **Comcast** to provide cable television services to the Town.

Comcast is in the process of conducting the engineering work for the utility pole permits and they anticipate submitting the permit applications within the next 45 days. They hope to be serving some customers by the 4th quarter of this year, but it is contingent upon how long it takes the utility pole owners to approve the permits and complete associated make-ready work before they can begin the process of attaching their lines.

We will continue to update you on their progress.

BULKHEAD REPAIRS

Bulkhead repairs will take place this year to Town-owned bulkheads located at the ends of New Castle Road, Sussex Place, and West 11th St. West 11th has already been prepped by the Public Works Department. If you are a canal end "adopter" at Sussex or New Castle, please contact Maureen at Town Hall at 302-539-3653, extension 213 to discuss.

2021 SOUTH BETHANY MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The 2021 Election will be held at Town Hall on Saturday, May 29, 2021. Polls open at 9:00 AM and close at 3:00 PM sharp. Look for the official election notice on all five of the Town bulletin boards and the Town website for detailed information.

If you vote in-person:

1. COVID safety guidelines will be strictly followed at Town Hall.
2. Masks are mandatory & social distancing will be practiced. Disposable masks will be available if you do not have one.
3. Shoes and shirts are required to enter Town Hall.
4. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in Town Hall or on Town Hall property.

CANDIDATES

There are three vacancies. One (1) of the three (3) Council seats up for election **MUST** be a full time resident and two may be filled by either a resident or non-resident.

The Candidates are as follows:

Carolyn Bell	Resident
Richard Oliver	Resident
William "Tim" Shaw	Resident
Edith Dondero	Non-Resident
Maureen Webster	Non-Resident

If you vote Absentee Ballot:

You must complete an **Affidavit** to receive an Absentee Voting Ballot. Three ways to receive an Affidavit:

- 1) Stop in Town Hall, 402 Evergreen Road.
- 2) Call Town Hall at (302) 539-3653 and request an Affidavit be mailed to you.
- 3) Download an Affidavit from our website; southbethany.delaware.gov "Info Tab/ Election Info". After submitting a completed Affidavit to Town Hall, you will receive an Absentee Ballot.

Please go to southbethany.delaware.gov, "Info Tab", "Election Info" to review the Absentee Ballot Voting deadlines.

SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS OF TOWN MEETINGS!

Please go to southbethany.delaware.gov at the top of the home page to sign up! You will receive an email on each day that notices are published. Each email will include a title, summary and link to further details for each public notices published that day.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE (CPR)

Farewell to Covid, Hello to Summer Fun 2021

As we approach the long-awaited summer of 2021, activities are ramping up. We hope to provide exercise on the beach and at the fitness area. We know folks are anxious to get outdoors and in the ocean breezes to stretch their muscles after a long quarantine. The dates and times of activities are to be determined. They will be posted on the bulletin boards and on the Town website, email updates, and Instagram. There will be no Independence Day Parade in Bethany Beach in 2021, so float decorators and designers will have to wait for 2022 to produce another award-winning float. There will be a Family Movie Night on the beach at dusk on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 with a rain date of July 22, 2021. The movie is still a surprise, but it will be fun for all with glow necklaces provided to children of all ages! Tentative plans for a Town bonfire and “End of Summer” party on Saturday, August 28th are in the works. Watch for details!*

Protecting Pets and Property

More and more residents of South Bethany are becoming full time members of our community and they are bringing their pets. With this trend comes the challenge of protecting properties and protecting the welfare of South Bethany Pets. The Town Council revised “Ordinance 201-21, Chapter 30, Animals” with those goals in mind. Owners of pets in Town must comply with licensing and vaccination requirements of their legal residence. All pet owners are responsible for removal of pet excrement on property other than their own. All dogs must be on a leash unless they are confined in an enclosure.

Most pet cats live safely indoors with their owners; however, some pet cats are allowed to run freely in the community. This causes a problem when there are excessive numbers of pet cats roaming outdoors. The Pet Ordinance 201-21 now restricts the number of cats that are allowed to roam outdoors at any given time to four per household. These out-

door pet cats MUST wear a collar with an identification tag with name, address, and phone number of the owner.

No domestic pet is permitted to damage the property of anyone other than its owner. This includes turning over garbage cans, damaging gardens, flowers, & vegetables or defecating on the property of another. It is unlawful to maintain unsanitary conditions on property, resulting in offensive odor or that may cause health and safety concerns. The goal is to allow all property owners to enjoy their South Bethany homes! No one wants to clean up the excrement of their neighbors’ pets!

Please take a moment to read Ordinance 201-21 on the Town website. We all love our pets, but we must be aware that all property owners have the right to reasonable use and enjoyment of their property. Please make sure your outdoor cats wear a collar and if possible a bell. I have found that the Beastie Band brand or Velcro type collar does not come off and that the added bell gives birds and other small animals a chance to escape! Please comply with the revised ordinance as fines are now in place for violators. Your neighbors are counting on YOU.

Lighting the Night Responsibly

Please respect your neighbors by making sure that your outdoor lighting is turned off at a reasonable hour. Particularly problematic are those bright spotlight that shine on adjacent properties or across the canals. Please point them away from other homes and use only when necessary! South Bethany residents and guests can’t wait to spend time at the “Best Little Beach in Delaware” and they need their sleep!

*Please note—COVID guidelines could change summer events.

CPR article submitted by Carol Stevenson, Chair, Communications and Public Relations Committee and Town Council Member

SOUTH COASTAL VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

After over a year of preparation, South Coastal Village Volunteers (SCVV) is now fully operational. A branch of Village Volunteers, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Lewes, SCVV is now serving Bethany Beach, Ocean View, Millville, **South Bethany**, and areas south of the Indian River Bridge. “While SCVV is operating under conditions imposed by the pandemic, as restrictions are eased, the group will start to offer additional services,” according to Vice Chair, Christine Powers.

The mission of South Coastal Village Volunteers is to connect neighbors with neighbors to enable older adults to remain in their homes as vibrant members of our community as long as possible. This is achieved through volunteers who provide a variety of services, including: transportation to medical appointments and errands, grocery shopping, assistance with household tasks and technology, help with pets and plants, friendly visits and check-in calls. In the near future, members will receive access to our list of trusted area vendors who may offer a discount.

Members pay an annual fee of \$500 for an individual and \$750 for a household, entitling them to up to twenty-five hours of services monthly. This comes to only \$1.67 hourly for an individual and \$2.50 hourly for a household. Supporting Members donate \$250;

they are not entitled to services but will have access to recommended vendors. Temporary Memberships of up to three months are \$75 monthly and designed to help those with temporary needs due to surgery or medical issues. Reduced fees are available based on demonstrated financial need.

Over 50 volunteers have been vetted and trained to serve the group’s members. These volunteers have been assisting SCVV members with scheduling and getting COVID vaccines and providing transportation to medical appointments. In addition, volunteers check-in with members regularly to determine their needs. Training for volunteers is ongoing, with weekly roundtable discussions on pertinent topics.

Our office at the Ocean View Town Hall at 32 West Avenue is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 AM to 2 PM, with other times by appointment.

For further information, please e-mail southcoastalvillage@gmail.com; call us at 302-500-1281; or go to www.villagevolunteer.org.

Article submitted by Joan Gordon, SCVV